

REMARKS

In the above reference Office Action, the pending claims were rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The claims have been amended to clarify that subject matter is directed to a one-piece ostomy appliance. The terms "one piece" and "two piece" ostomy bag or appliance have well understood meanings and are quite distinct product configurations. In summary, a one piece appliance has a wafer permanently coupled with the bag on one side and provides a skin contacting surface on the other. A two piece appliance has a wafer that is applied to the skin and then bags are separately and releasably attached to the wafer. This allows the user to replace bags without having to remove and replace the skin adhering wafer. With a one-piece appliance, the skin contacting wafer is removed with the bag and replaced in each instance.

The '647 reference is directed to a two piece appliance. The cited portion of Leise is directed to a two piece appliance.

No reference or combination of references has been provided that teaches a one-piece appliance that has a portion of the wafer affixed to the bag and another portion of the same wafer provided with an adhesive, but separated by a release liner (e.g., claim 1).

As previously articulated, this partial separation of the wafer permits the user to place the wafer proximate the stoma, view the backside (i.e., bag side) of the wafer for measurement purposes and to custom trim the stomal opening, then secure the remainder of the wafer to the bag without concern for alignment (as the initial permanent affixation of the wafer to the bag controls the location) to thereby form a complete one piece ostomy appliance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice of the same is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned. No additional fee are believed due at this time; however, the office is authorized to charge any fees actually due and credit any overpayment to deposit account 50-4439.

Applicants : Ciok
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Respectfully submitted,
Ciok

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/Daniel G. Chapik/
Daniel G. Chapik, Reg. No. 43,424
Director and Chief Patent Counsel
Coloplast Corp., Coloplast A/S
Customer No. 69289
Telephone: (612) 344-2376